

PROOF OF MIND OVER MATTER?

Experiments conducted by a team at Princeton University are being hailed as the most convincing demonstration yet of psychokinesis (PK), the supposed ability of thought to affect inanimate objects.

Professor Robert Jahn and colleagues at the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research project have been perfecting a series of laboratory experiments which focus on electronic random-number generators that produce an unpredictable sequence of ones and zeros.

Subjects are asked to concentrate on a display showing the output of the generators, and try to change the numbers it produces. Left to themselves, the devices will produce equal numbers of ones and zeros in the long run. Thus if PK exists, it should reveal itself in a bias away from chance expectation as subjects 'will' the output upwards or downwards.

Now, after 12 years of experiments involving more than 100 subjects in thousands of trials, Professor Jahn and his team believe they have the evidence that the electronic devices can be controlled by human thought.

(Source: *The Sunday Telegraph*, London, 16 November 1997)



A POLICE COMEDY OF TERRORS

The CIA, the FBI and the Los Angeles Police Department all have to prove that they are the best at apprehending criminals. So the President decides to give them a test. He releases a white rabbit into a forest and each of them has to catch it.

The CIA goes in. They place animal informants throughout the forest. They question all the plant and mineral witnesses. After three months of extensive investigations, they conclude that rabbits do not exist.

The FBI goes in. After two weeks with

no leads, they burn the forest, killing everything in it including the rabbit. They make no apologies: the rabbit had it coming.

The LAPD goes in. They come out after just two hours, with a badly beaten bear. The bear is yelling, "Okay, okay, I'm a rabbit, I'm a rabbit".

The Australian Prime Minister hears about this and decides to test Australia's own law enforcement agencies. He releases a white rabbit into the forest just outside Canberra.

The Victoria Police goes in. They return 15 minutes later with a koala, a kangaroo and a tree fern, all shot to pieces. "They looked like dangerous rabbits; we had to act in self defence" is their explanation.

The New South Wales Police goes in. Surveillance tapes later reveal top-ranking officers and rabbits dancing naked around a gum tree, stoned out of their brains. "F***ing, s**t, f**k up the stupid f**ker", is the only intelligible phrase picked up by the microphone.

The Queensland Police goes in. Shortly afterwards, they come out driving a brand new Mercedes, scantily clad rabbits draped all over them. The Queensland Premier congratulates them on maintaining traditional family values.

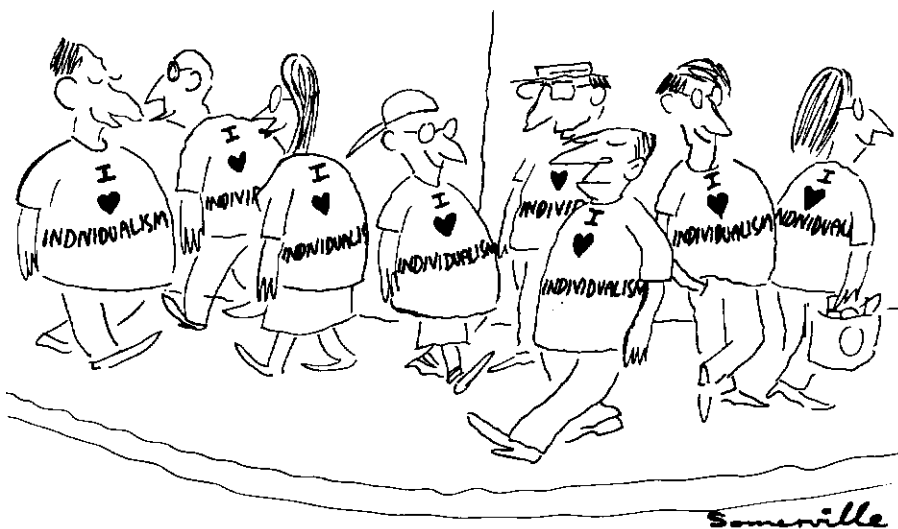
The NCA (National Crime Authority) can't catch the rabbit, but promise that if they are given a budget increase they can recover \$90 million from the rabbit in unpaid taxes and proceeds of crime.

The Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia Police join forces and belt the crap out of every rabbit in the forest except the white one. They claim that it's the black ones that cause all the trouble, anyway.

The AFP (Australian Federal Police) refuses to go. They examine the issues, particularly the cost, and decide that because of the low priority and cost to the organisation as a whole, the matter should be rejected and returned to the referring department for investigation.

And ASIO (Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation) goes to the wrong forest.

(Source: Sent via the Internet; origin unclear. We'd like to have more suggestions, so send them to our Australian head office. If they're good enough, we'll publish them next issue. Ed.)



CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AMONG AMERICAN DOCTORS

Virtually all the doctors who defended a class of drugs widely used to treat heart disease had hidden links to the makers of the drugs, the *New England Journal of Medicine* said in its latest issue.

The Journal said that a team of researchers has found that almost all the doctors who rushed to defend the safety of calcium-channel blockers in 1995 had financial links to the drug companies that make them.

"We wonder how the public would interpret the debate over calcium-channel antagonists if it knew that most of the authors participating in the debate had undisclosed financial ties with pharmaceutical manufacturers," said the study team, who argued that "the medical profession needs to develop a strong policy governing conflict of interest".

Calcium-channel blockers are used mainly to treat heart diseases marked by spasms in the organ's artery. The drugs prevent calcium from entering smooth muscle cells and cause the smooth muscles to relax and muscle spasms to be reduced.

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute warned physicians in 1995 that one particular drug—short-acting nifedipine—should be prescribed "with great caution, if at all". It said short-acting calcium-channel blockers were linked with an increased risk of death from heart attack.

The warning kicked off a major debate. (Source: Gene Emery, Reuters, 7 January 1998; Internet website, www.nando.net)

The latest episode, broadcast on Tuesday evening 16 December, included a scene where the screen was filled by a bright red explosion, accompanied by strobe lights and followed by a white flash. The culmination showed the main character's eyes flashing red.

The sequence lasted only five seconds but it provoked fits, vomiting, eye irritations and breathing difficulties. More children were afflicted later in the evening, when some news programs replayed the scene during their reports on the outbreak.

A victim said, "I was lying down watching *Pocket Monsters* and the next thing I remember is being rushed to hospital in an ambulance". Most of the casualties were discharged almost immediately, but about 120 were still in hospital 24 hours after the broadcast.

Dr Tsuyoshi Akiyama, an epilepsy expert at a Tokyo hospital, said: "What is unique about this incident is that so many children were affected at the same time. The flickering lights and the intense colours could bring on epileptic attacks. The producers of the program should use more moderate effects."

(Source: *Electronic Telegraph*, London, 18 December 1997)

DEMAND FOR ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE SOARS IN BRITAIN

Nearly 40 per cent of general practitioners are now referring on their patients for complementary or alternative treatment, as demand for non-orthodox medicine soars in the UK.

A new report, published on 22 October, says that at least 750,000 complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) consultations take place every year, most of them in the private sector. There are more than 50,000 registered practitioners—considerably more than the 36,000 GPs.

On the evening of 21 October, the Prince of Wales launched a discussion document, "Integrated Healthcare: a way forward for the next five years?", with his own appeal for all disciplines to work together to find ways of incorporating CAM into Western medicine. The Prince said that the different approaches to treatment had a "vital role to play in supporting and complementing current orthodox medical practice".

The new report is produced in association with the King's Fund, the independent health think-tank of which the Prince is president. It says that there is not enough research, training or public information available. Too little is done to teach medical students and trainee nurses about CAM, says the report which makes 28 proposals to ensure the safety and effectiveness of complementary treatments and to regulate the numerous disciplines.

(Source: *Electronic Telegraph*, London, 22 October 1997)

WARM SEAS ENDANGER ALASKA'S PIPELINE & ECOLOGY

Scientists from the University of Washington report that during the (northern hemisphere) summer of 1997, temperatures in the normally bone-chilling

JAPANESE TV CARTOON SENDS HUNDREDS TO HOSPITAL

About 120 children were treated in hospital for conditions similar to those of epilepsy after a television cartoon triggered convulsions and other ill effects.

The mass outbreak in more than 700 children across Japan caused panic among parents. The television company has started an investigation. The *Pocket Monsters* cartoon was inspired by a Nintendo computer game of the same name.



... GLOBAL NEWS ...

waters of the Bering Sea reached 56°F (13°C), 10°F (5.5°C) higher than normal.

Not only have the bizarre temperature changes upset the local ecosystem and Alaska's salmon runs, but the changes are also threatening an unparalleled calamity on land.

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline carries oil for 800 miles, from Prudhoe Bay to the Port of Valdez. The heated oil moves through pipes suspended over Alaska's permafrost. But as the region has warmed over recent decades, the tundra has begun to soften, posing a threat to the pipeline—and the fragile Alaskan environment.

On 7 August 1997, floods caused by melting glaciers almost destroyed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The incident was widely reported in the local news media but received little coverage outside Alaska.

(Source: *Earth Island Journal*, Fall 1997, northern hemisphere)

FLOORED BY SMART CARPETS

Finnish engineering company Messet has developed a carpet that is sensitive to touch and is capable of monitoring the heart, breathing and pulse rate of someone lying on it.

The carpet relies on a special pressure-sensitive film made of tiny bubbles surrounded by electrical fields which are dis-

rupted when a person moves. A small computer analyses the changes in each electrical field, working out exactly where a person is situated.

Trials of the carpet are taking place in private nursing homes in Tuusula, Finland, where it is being used at night, when there are fewer nurses around, to alert help if people get out of bed and fall over.

(Source: *The Sunday Telegraph*, Sydney, 14 December 1997)

VICTORY FOR HEALTH FREEDOM

On 9 November 1997, a potential disaster for health freedom in the USA was averted at the last minute. Victory was achieved by a massive grassroots campaign which forced a change in an enabling clause of the FDA Reform Bill (S.830) which, if left unchallenged, would have allowed the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate many dietary supplements as drugs by harmonising American law with that of the European Union, where supplements are regulated as drugs.

Several major US-based health and herb companies, who had entered into partnerships with European pharmaceutical companies, were supporting the FDA's move to regulate herbs as over-the-counter (OTC) drugs because it would make it easier for them to obtain OTC drug approval and thus

achieve US market dominance.

Members of organisations such as the Life Extension Foundation and National Health Federation flooded Congress with faxes, letters, e-mail and phone calls demanding that the harmonisation language in the Bill be amended to exempt dietary supplements.

So much so that congressional staff referred to them as "the vitamin people" and said they were the most politically active group on Capitol Hill.

The fight for health freedom is still far from over, and we recommend that people stay informed by visiting the International Advocates for Health Freedom website, www.pnc.com.au/~cafmr/online/freedom/index.html.

(Source: John C. Hammell, "Victory for Health Freedom", *Life Extension*, February 1998 issue)

98% IN UK SURVEY BELIEVE DIANA WAS MURDERED

Conspiracy theories are still emerging surrounding the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, as more and more clues surface which contradict the official stories.

No wonder, then, that people are becoming suspicious—so suspicious, in fact, that one survey organised by the British Sunday newspaper *The People* recently revealed that 98 per cent of the 5,600 respondents believe Diana and Dodi were killed as part of a secret operation involving British intelligence.

Only 93 respondents said they believed the crash was an accident.

(Source: *The People*, 9 November 1997)

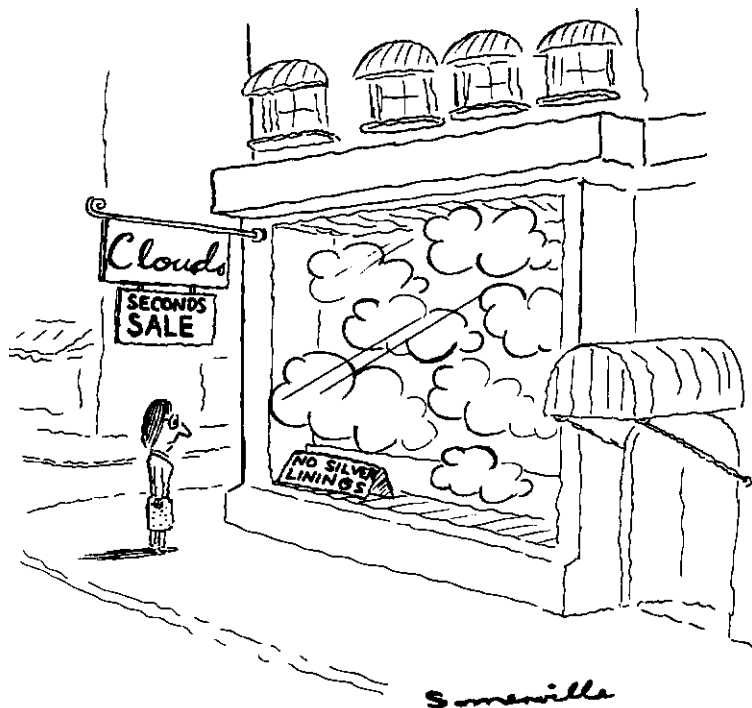
FLUORIDE, TEETH AND THE ATOMIC BOMB

Hundreds of once-secret World War II documents—including declassified papers from the Manhattan Project, the US military group that built the atomic bomb—have delivered yet more proof that fluoride in drinking water is very dangerous to human health.

Massive quantities of fluoride were essential for the manufacture of nuclear-weapons-grade uranium and plutonium throughout the Cold War. Fluoride is one of the most toxic chemicals known, and the documents reveal that it rapidly emerged as the leading chemical health hazard of the US atomic bomb program—both for workers and for nearby communities.

The documents show that much of the proof that fluoride is "safe" for humans in low doses was generated by atomic bomb program scientists who had been secretly ordered to provide "evidence useful in litigation" against defence contractors for fluoride injury to citizens.

The documents reveal that the first lawsuits against the US atomic bomb program



were not over radiation, but over fluoride damage!

A-bomb program researchers played a leading role in the design and implementation of the most extensive US study of the health effects of fluoridating public drinking water. The study was conducted in Newburgh, New York, from 1945 to 1956. Then, in a classified operation, code-named *Program F*, they secretly gathered and analysed blood and tissue samples from Newburgh citizens, with the cooperation of State Health Department personnel.

The original "secret" version of a 1948 study, published by *Program F* scientists in the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, shows that evidence of the adverse health effects from fluoride was censored by the US Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) for reasons of national security.

The documents unearthed by two researchers, Joel Griffiths and Chris Bryson, have been totally ignored by the mainstream media.

(Source: *The Australian Fluoridation News*, vol. 33, no. 7, November 1997; GPO Box 935G, Melbourne Vic. 3001, ph (03) 9592 5088, fax (03) 9592 4544)

FUDGED FIGURES IMMUNISE AGAINST THE TRUTH

Australians are being urged and financially coerced to have their children immunised. Thus we are being treated to regular media stories telling us that "NSW is in the grip of one of the worst whooping cough epidemics for years...".

If this is the case (which is purely conjecture, as the vast majority of "whooping cough" cases are not being diagnosed in a laboratory), how many of those who have contracted whooping cough have been vaccinated against it? It is impossible to say, because in this case New South Wales does not see fit to track the vaccination status in cases of infectious diseases.

South Australia does, and in 1996 the SA Health Commission reported that of the 1,094 cases of whooping cough reported for that year, 87 per cent of those for whom vaccination status was available were fully vaccinated against whooping cough.

This does not indicate a failure to vaccinate, but rather, a failure of the whooping cough vaccine to protect.

(Source: *Australian Vaccination Network*, PO Box 177, Bangalow NSW 2479, ph (02) 6687 1699, fax (02) 6687 2032)

SLEAZY RESEARCH TRICKS

According to the rules, theories attain the status of facts after they have been rigorously tested by reliable, replicable, high-quality research. In practice, a substantial body of studies supporting a given theory, published in the best journals (e.g., *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*), establishes that theory as 'fact'.

Often, however, the harried researcher, pressed for time in the pursuit of lucrative grants or frustrated by studies that refuse (for unknown reasons) to produce the desired results, has recourse to certain shortcuts. It is important to note that the underlying active ingredient in any of the following ploys is usually a powerful 'tell us what we want to hear' effect. If your study 'proves' something that the prospective funder wants to believe, there will rarely be any problem.

Big-Naming: Get a big-name scientist as co-author, and the backing of a prestigious research institute or university ('backing', in this case, can be as minimal as use of a letterhead and address), and you're in business.

Circular Referencing: Researcher A mentions in a footnote that Compound X has been "proven" completely harmless. Researcher B quotes A, and is in turn quoted by Researchers C, D and E. The next time Researcher A discusses the topic, he cites the papers by B, C, D and E as further proof of his original claim. If someone tries to pin you down on your original footnote, cite a "personal communication" (i.e., phone call or unofficial letter) with another scientist. It's best if your personal communicant lives far away, is difficult to reach, doesn't speak English or, better still, is dead.

Step-Wise Exaggeration: Researcher A publishes a study proposing that smoking is responsible for 8% of all lung cancer. Researcher B cites this study, saying that smoking is responsible for "nearly a tenth" of all lung cancer. Researcher C translates this to 10%, and Researcher D points out that since smokers are only half the population, this 10% is really 20%. Researcher E casually refers to D's paper, giving the statistic as "almost a quarter" of the population, having forgotten that it was only smokers that D was talking about. Finally, Researcher A, upon reading E's report, notes that current studies now show that smoking is responsible for three times as much of the lung cancer as he originally thought, i.e., 25% instead of 8%. When A's statement is published prominently in several major daily newspapers, Researchers B, C, D and E all triple their previous estimates, citing the highly respected A. Thus the original 8% has ballooned up to 75% in E's revised estimate.

Naïve Subtraction: Researcher A decides to estimate the environmental causes of cancer by taking the known cancer rate and subtracting all 'proven' sources of cancer from it. By using generous estimates for these causes (preferably lifestyle factors like smoking and diet), Researcher A finds that only 2-3% of all cancers are "unexplained". This tiny residual thus becomes the ceiling figure for environmentally caused cancers.

Dry-Labbing: To 'dry-lab' a study means to fake it; to make up the numbers without actually bothering with all those test tubes and things. The chances that anyone will ever ask you to produce your original lab reports and notebooks are pretty slim. Recent experience shows that even if a lab worker sells out and denounces you, he or she is unlikely to be believed. Of course, someone could replicate your study and fail to get the same (i.e., faked) results; but you simply accuse him or her of screwing up somewhere. It will take, at the very least, several years for anyone to sort it all out.

Competing Toxicity: The FDA has demanded, as a precondition to licensing, that DeathCo's new product, Liquid Death, be tested for its potential to cause cancer. So DeathCo gives Liquid Death to 17,000 mice—but at a dose so high that they all die within weeks. Since it usually takes several months for a tumour to develop, very few cancers are reported. Such a high death-rate could be some cause for concern. However, the FDA didn't ask, "How many mice will drop dead in weeks?"; it asked, "How many will develop cancer if they are given Liquid Death?". DeathCo's study is published as 'proof' that Liquid Death doesn't cause cancer, "even when very high doses are administered". This 'proof' stands unchallenged until someone with 17,000 spare mice is able to replicate the study!

(Source: First published in *Processed World*, but we found it in *Hippocrates Newsletter*, late 1997; Hippocrates Health Centre, Elaine Ave, Mudgeeraba Qld 4213, Australia.)